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Influences Inside Congress Pressing for Probe of CIA

But Plans for Congressional Surveillance

Is Not Expected to Be Approved at This Time

By NATHAN PERLMAN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3—A fresh drive is now being launched here to halt the Central Intelligence Agency before a subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for open hearings.

The object of the drive is to set up a joint committee of the House and Senate to supervise the CIA in much the same manner that the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy looks over the shoulder of the Atomic Energy Commission.

A relatively small group of members of Congress, most of them members of the Senate, is actively enlisted in the drive, but most of the steam behind it appears to be coming from outside.

Mansfield Backed Off

A resolution introduced last April by Senator McCarthy (D., Minn.) is the vehicle with which interests that want to bridle the CIA are trying to move, and reference is made to a recommendation by Senator Mansfield of Montana, the present Senate majority leader, that the CIA be placed under legislative curb.

Senator Mansfield made this recommendation June 23, 1960, while he was majority whip and President Eisenhower was still in the White House. He hasn't pushed the recommendation as majority leader.

The new drive came to light during the Christmas holiday when a Washington "background material" publication put out a leaflet asserting that the Foreign Relations Committee was going to "put down for public hearings" the McCarthy resolution.

"Powerful Opposition"

An official Foreign Relations Committee source said Tuesday no such decision has been made by the committee or is in prospect. The McCarthy resolution is in the committee pigeonhole with no prospect it will get out.

Very powerful opposition has kept the resolution from coming to any hearings public or closed, and this opposition continues, the committee source said.

Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Robert F. Kennedy, who was in the White House that Congress has no right to intervene between the Chief Executive and his source of intelligence.

Russell Against Probe

He holds that view even more strongly than a fellow Democrat in the White House, and his position is bulwarked by the fact that, as top man on CIA appropriations, he knows how much money the CIA gets and what it is spent for.

Standing with Senator Hayden is Senator Russell (D., Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and another of the very small group of senators privately informed of the CIA's activities.

In the background as a fresh assault on the CIA is being attempted is a study of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy conducted by the National Law Center of George Washington University and published under the title of "A Study in Fusion of Governmental Power."

No "Value Judgments"

This study pays particular attention to language in the basic Atomic Energy Act which requires the AEC to keep the Joint Committee "fully and currently informed" about its policies and administrative action.

While Harold P. Green and Alan Rosenthal, directors of the study, strongly disclaimed in releasing their report that they had made any "value judgments" about how well congressional supervision of the AEC has worked, the report itself found that the unusual relationship between a secret executive agency and Congress has worked well.

Past chairmen of the AEC have been convinced the Joint Committee's prerogative of being fully and currently informed made the commission's operations difficult and at times impossible.

Former CIA Director Allen W. Dulles succeeded in avoiding headon clashes with Congress over congressional surveillance of the highly secret agency he headed. But he made no secret of his views about any requirement that a congressional "watchdog committee" look over his shoulder.

Reasons for Opposition

He held the existence of a legislative watchdog would destroy the CIA because foreign intelligence services that now exchange information with the CIA would refuse to accept the hazard of leaks from uncared congressional sources.

The new CIA director, John R. McConne, hasn't given the slightest intimation of how he stands on accepting a congressional bridle, but some of his old associates at the Atomic Energy Commission believe he will prove as adamant as Mr. Dulles against it.